



No. 21 Rs. 3.00

Veer Dhaval

AN ADAPTATION OF NATH MADHAV'S FAMOUS MARATHI CLASSIC



"Veer Dhaval" is one of Nath Modhav's better known Marathi novels and this Amar Chitra Kotha is based on it. The novel as a literary form was unknown to our country till the advent of the British. The early novels in Indian languages were either translations of the European originals or were based on them. Veer Dhaval is a novel with a historical background. Being a story of court intrigue, it involves a number of characters. To enable our readers to keep track of them we have prepared a list of the major characters.



KEERTI VARMA - the murdered master of Fort Ajinkya.



CHANDA VARMA - Keerti Varma's brother. The present master of Fort Ajinkya and a henchman of the king of Kalyan.



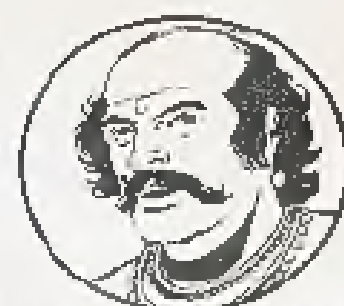
RANARAG - a servant in Chanda Varma's pay.



VANITA - the maid who saves Veer Dhaval and who appears later as Vanachari.



VEER DHAVAL - Keerti Varma's son; brought up by Satyashreya.

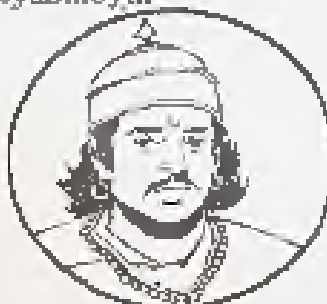


SATYASHREYA - master of Fort Lalit and a loyal chieftain.

CHANDRASENA AND LALITA -



son and daughter of Satyashreya.



VIJJAL - one of Satyashreya's attendants.



CHANDRACHUD - master of Fort Prasad, in league with Chanda Varma.

DURJAT AND UNMATT - dacoit brothers, operating from their hideout, Lion's Den, near Fort Ajinkya.



SALHAN - an arm-smith residing at Rajmahendri, the Chelukya capital.

VEER DHAVAL



CENTURIES AGO, CHANDRAKETU, THE CHALUKYA KING, RULED FROM RAJMAHENDRI, HIS CAPITAL. HIS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS INCLUDED SEVERAL VASSAL CHIEFTAINS. AMONGS THEM WERE KEERTI VARMA, MASTER OF FORT AJINKYA; CHANDRACHUD, MASTER OF FORT PRASAD; AND SATYASHREYA, OF FORT LALIT. ONE NEW YEAR'S DAY, TWO HOOD-ED FIGURES MURDERED KEERTI VARMA AND HIS WIFE. THEIR SON, HOWEVER, WAS SAVED BY HIS MAID. ONE OF THE TWO MONKS WHO WITNESSED THE ASSASSINATION WAS ALSO MURDERED. THE OTHER GOT AWAY.



I HAD TO KILL THE MONK. IT IS A PITY THE MAID ESCAPED WITH THE CHILD BUT IT'S BOUND TO PERISH.

THE CRUEL DEED ACCOMPLISHED, RAJMAHENDRI RAN TO HIS MASTER, CHANDRA VARMA, THE BROTHER OF KEERTI VARMA.

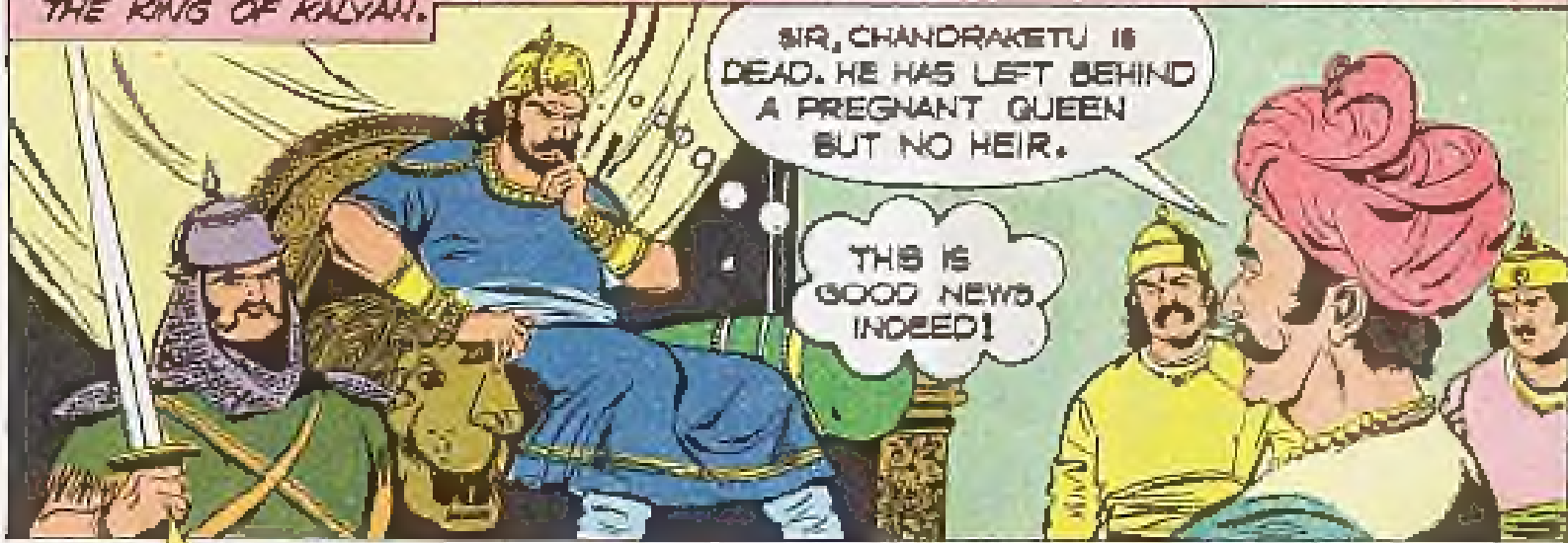


MASTER, WHAT YOU WANTED HAS BEEN DONE.

THANK GOD! WITH MY BROTHER, HIS WIFE AND SON OUT OF THE WAY, I AM NOW THE SOLE LORD OF FORT AJINKYA.



TWENTY-FOUR YEARS LATER, THE CHALUKYA KING DIED. A SPY BROUGHT THE NEWS TO THE KING OF KALYAN.



SIR, CHANDRAKETU IS DEAD. HE HAS LEFT BEHIND A PREGNANT QUEEN BUT NO HEIR.

THIS IS GOOD NEWS INDEED!



I MUST CONTACT MY HENCHMEN, CHANDRACHUD OF FORT PRASAD AND CHANDA VARMA OF FORT AJINKYA. FORTUNATELY FOR ME, THEY VIRTUALLY CONTROL THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT RAJMAHENDRI.

A FEW DAYS LATER, AT RAJMAHENDRI, CHANDRACHUD AND CHANDA VARMA RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM THE KING OF KALYAN.



WHAT DOES IT SAY?

HE WANTS US TO ABDUCT THE ROYAL CHILD AS SOON AS THE QUEEN DELIVERS IT, AND TAKE IT IN SECRECY TO KALYAN.



BUT FOR THE LOYAL CHIEFTAIN SATYASHREYA, IT SHOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT. THE REST OF THE MINISTERS WILL FOLLOW OUR DICTATES.



WHY DON'T YOU INVITE SATYASHREYA AND HIS CHILDREN TO STAY FOR A WHILE AT FORT AJINKYA?

A GOOD IDEA, CHANDRACHUD! THAT SHOULD KEEP HIM OUT OF RAJWAHENDRI AND OUR WAY.



WITH THE INVITATION, WHY DON'T YOU SEND A PROPOSAL FOR HIS DAUGHTER'S HAND? THE ALLIANCE WILL GIVE YOU A HOLD OVER HIM.

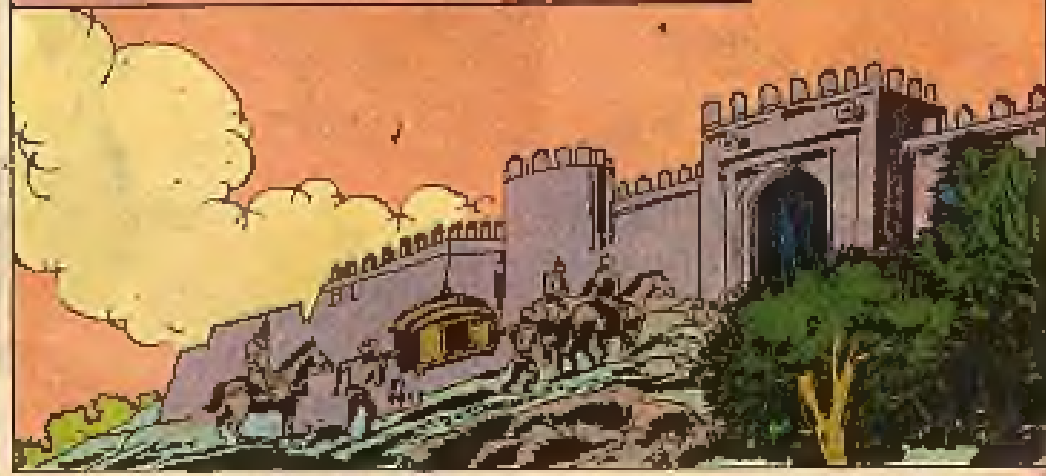
HE MAY NOT AGREE. I AM FIFTY AND HIS DAUGHTER HAS JUST TURNED SIXTEEN! LET'S SEE.

WHEN THE PROPOSAL AND THE INVITATION REACHED SATYASHREYA, HOWEVER, HE WAS DELIGHTED.

I'LL ACCEPT. WHAT BETTER MATCH COULD I MAKE FOR MY DAUGHTER? THE WIFE OF A POWERFUL CHIEFTAIN AND THE MISTRESS OF FORT AJINKYA! LALITA IS LUCKY. BUT I WILL NOT SAY ANYTHING TO HER YET.



SO, ALONG WITH DHAVAL, CHANDRASENA AND LALITA, SATYASHREYA CAME TO FORT AJINKYA.



ONE EVENING, AS THE THREE YOUNGSTERS WERE OUT FOR A WALK, DHAVAL, NOW A STRAPPING YOUTH OF TWENTY-FOUR, TURNED TO LALITA.



LALITA, I WANT TO MARRY YOU. DO YOU CARE FOR ME?

DO YOU DOUBT THAT?

SUDDENLY, A HAGGARD OLD WOMAN JUMPED OUT FROM BEHIND A BUSH.

YOU MAKE A PERFECT PAIR! GOD BLESS YOU.

WHO COULD SHE BE?

CHANDRASENA RAN AFTER THE OLD WOMAN BUT SHE ESCAPED INTO THE WOODS



HE GAVE UP THE CHASE AND WENT TO SATYASHREYA.

FATHER, DHAVAL LOVES LALITA, I JUST HEARD HIM SPEAK TO HER ABOUT IT.

HOW DARE HE! I HAVE PROMISED LALITA TO CHANDA VARMA. FROM TODAY, DHAVAL SHALL BE CONFINED TO HIS ROOM. VIVAL WILL TAKE HIS MEALS TO HIM.

BUT CHANDA VARMA IS FIFTY AND SHE IS ONLY SIXTEEN!

THAT DOESN'T MATTER. THINK OF HIS STATUS AND HIS WEALTH. HE WILL BE COMING HERE FOR THE NEW YEAR'S FEAST. BRING LALITA TO ME.



WHEN LALITA HEARD OF SATYASHREYA'S DECISION, SHE FAINTED.

ATTEND TO HER. SHE WILL COME ROUND SOON. THIS IS ONLY THE INITIAL SHOCK.



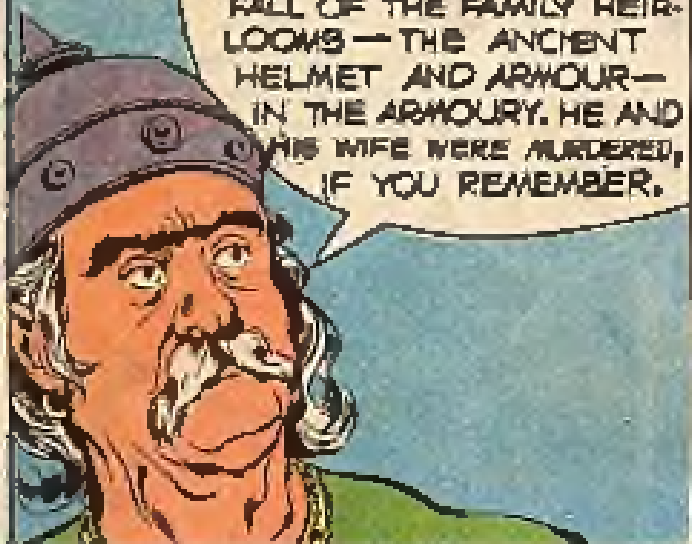
AS SATYASHREYA AND CHANDRASENA CAME OUT OF THE ROOM, THEY MET RANARAS, CHANDA VARMA'S SERVANT.

OH! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU SOMETHING. IS IT TRUE THAT THE OLD MASTER OF THE CASTLE PRESENTS HIMSELF AT THE NEW YEAR'S FEAST?



RANARAS WAS QUIET FOR A MINUTE. THEN—

YES, HE DOES! IN FACT, HIS GHOST OFTEN COMES ON OTHER DAYS TOO! HIS VISIT IS HERALDED BY THE FALL OF THE FAMILY HEIR-LOOMS—THE ANCIENT HELMET AND ARMOUR—IN THE ARMOURY. HE AND HIS WIFE WERE MURDERED, IF YOU REMEMBER.



HAVEN'T THEY CAUGHT THE MURDERERS YET?

NO!



THE NEXT DAY, CHANDA VARMA ARRIVED. WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO CROSS THE MAIN GATE, HE HEARD A LOUD CLANG.

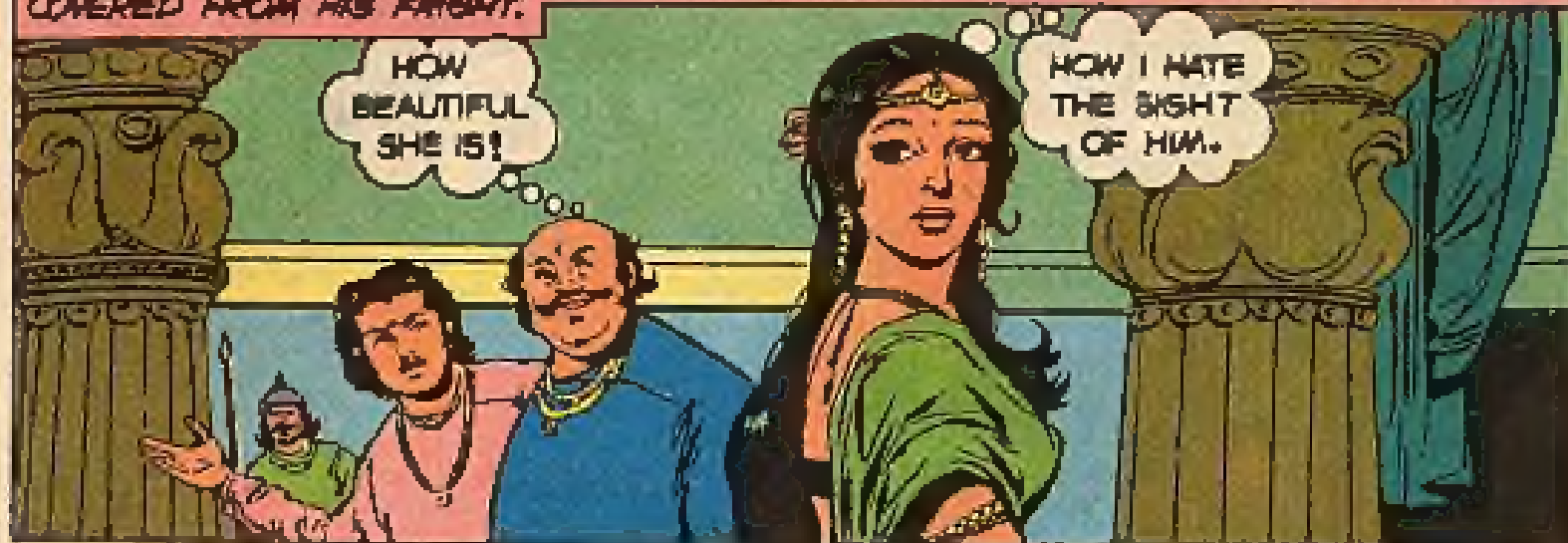
OH NO! THE HELMET AND ARMOUR HAVE FALLEN IN THE ARMOURY. SOME EVIL IS SURE TO BEFALL ME.

CLANG! CLANG!

LOOK! HE SHIVERS WITH FRIGHT!



WHEN CHANDA VARMA ENTERED THE CASTLE AND SAW LALITA, HOWEVER, HE SOON RECOVERED FROM HIS FRIGHT.



THAT NIGHT, WHEN VIJAL WENT TO DHRAVAL WITH HIS DINNER —



I WILL DO ANYTHING TO PREVENT HER FROM MARRYING THAT OLD CHIEFTAIN.



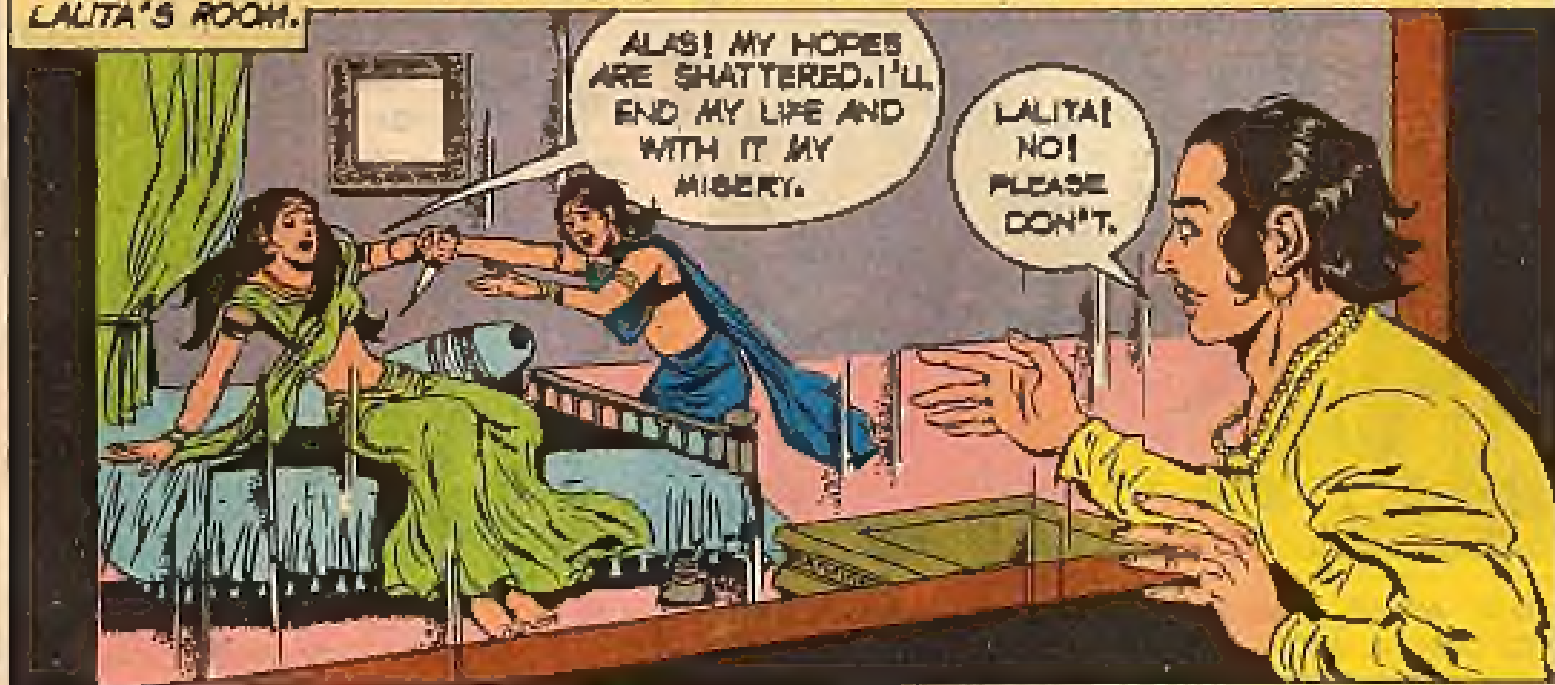
AFTER VIJAL LEFT, THE LIGHT IN THE ROOM FIRST BECAME VERY BRIGHT...



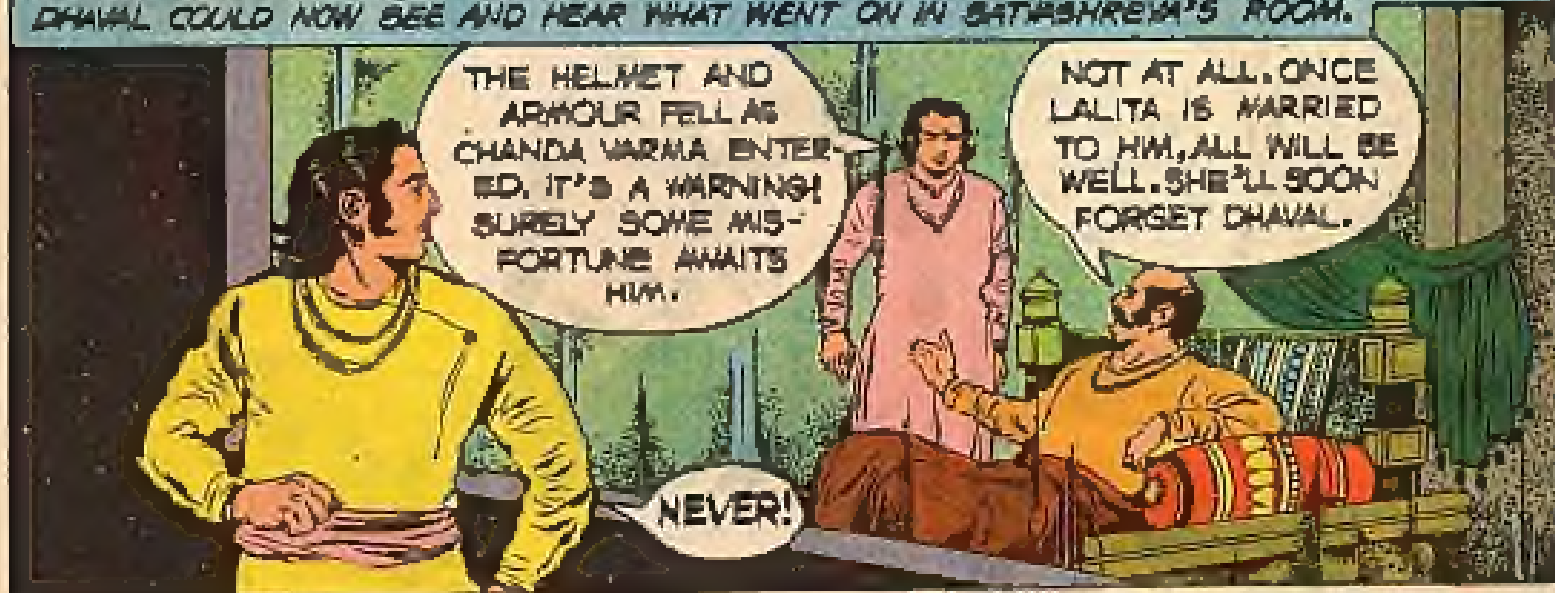
A FLASH OF RAINBOW COLOURS APPEARED ON THE WALL AND...



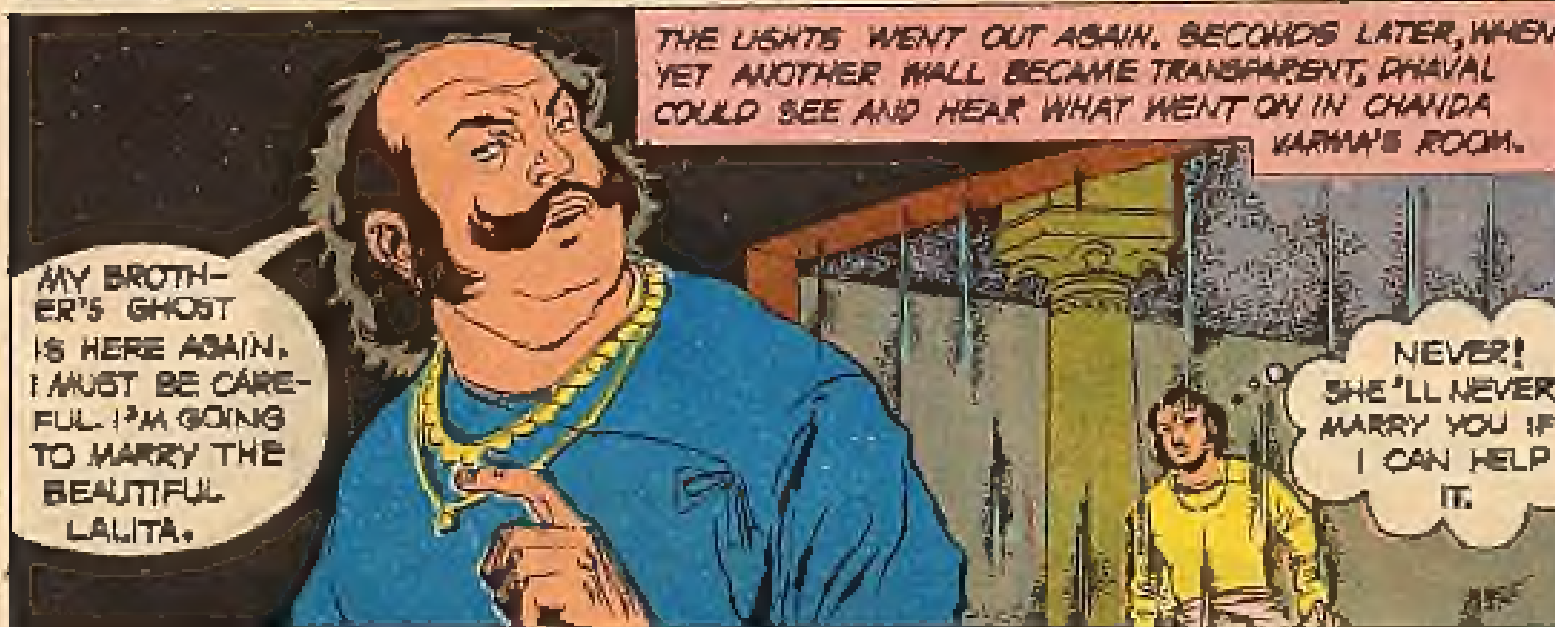
...THE WALL BECAME TRANSPARENT. DHAVAL COULD SEE AND HEAR WHAT WENT ON IN LALITA'S ROOM.



THE LIGHTS WENT OUT, THEN REAPPEARED AND ANOTHER WALL BECAME TRANSPARENT. DHAVAL COULD NOW SEE AND HEAR WHAT WENT ON IN SATYASHREYA'S ROOM.



THE LIGHTS WENT OUT AGAIN. SECONDS LATER, WHEN YET ANOTHER WALL BECAME TRANSPARENT, DHAVAL COULD SEE AND HEAR WHAT WENT ON IN CHANDA VARMA'S ROOM.



DAY BROKE. IN HIS ROOM, DHAVAL REMAINED IMMERSED IN HIS THOUGHTS.

IT'S NEW YEAR'S DAY TODAY. THE OLD MASTER OF THE CASTLE WILL PRESENT HIMSELF AS USUAL. WONDER WHY HE DOES IT?



MEANWHILE, AT THE FEAST, AS CHANDA VARMA WAS ABOUT TO OCCUPY THE SEAT MEANT FOR HIM—



IT HAD THE SHOOT OF THE MURDERED MASTER OF THE CASTLE. IT CAME UP TO LALITA AND POINTING A FINGER AT CHANDA VARMA SHOOK ITS HEAD AS IF TO SAY "NO."

HOW STRANGE!
I'LL TELL CHANDRA
ALL WHEN
MEET HIM.



THE EVENING, JUST AS LALITA FINISHED TELLING DHRAVAL ABOUT THE EVENTS AT THE FEAST, THE OLD MASTER HAD APPEARED, ONCE AGAIN.



YOU MUST
MARRY EACH
OTHER.
VANACHAR,
WISH YOU
ALL suc-
CESS!

CHANDRASENA WHO WAS LOOKING FOR HIS SISTER, SUDDENLY CAME UPON THE SCENE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AT THIS HOUR, LALITA? RETURN HOME IMMEDIATELY. I'LL TEACH THIS SCOUNDREL A LESSON FOR MEETING YOU ON THE SLY.



TOWARDS NIGHTFALL, A WORRIED SATYASHREE FACED UP AND DOWN HIS ROOM.

IT'S HOURS SINCE I SENT CHANDRASENA OUT TO FETCH LAITA. SHE HAS RETURNED WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?



JUST THEN, CHANDA VARMA AND TWO FOREST GUARDS CHARGED INTO THE ROOM.

SIR, SEE WHAT WE'VE FOUND BY THE STREAM. WE FEAR YOUR SON HAS BEEN MURDERED.

CHANDRASENA'S SHIRT AND HEAD- DRESS! THE HILT OF CHAVAL'S SWORD!

WHAT!

CHAVAL SHALL BE IM- PE-SONED IN THE CELLAR WITH HIS FEET CHAINED!



WHEN THE OTHERS LEFT, LAITA WEPT BITTERLY.

I AM THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS. BUT MY HEART TELLS ME THAT CHAVAL CANNOT BE GUILTY OF A FOUL MURDER.



A LITTLE LATER, CHANDA VARMA CAME TO HER.

IF YOU PROMISE TO BE MINE, CHAVAL CAN ESCAPE WITH HIS LIFE. OR ELSE... HE SHALL DIE.

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO END ALL HIS TROUBLES.

I PROMISE. PLEASE SPARE HIS LIFE.



MEANWHILE, A TERRIBLE STORM
HAD SUDDENLY BROKEN OUT IN
THE MOUNTAINS. UNHATT, WHO
WAS IN THE WOODS, HEARD A
GRAN

WHO
COULD
IT BE?

JUST THEN, A FLASH OF LIGHTNING UT THE SKY.

WHY? I'VE DREAMT,
THE POWER & RICH
DAROTT OF "LION'S
DEN."

YES IT IS. AM
INJURED, PLEASE
HELP ME REACH
"LION'S DEN"

AT THE MOUNT, "LION'S DEN"

PROVIDENCE
HAB LED ME
HERE. I
HUNTER
WHY?

SUDDENLY THE SOGGID OF THE SERPANTS CAUGHT HER
ATTENTION

DO YOU KNOW THAT
DHVAL HAS BEEN
IMPRISONED? HE'S
BEEN CHARGED WITH
THE MURDER OF
CHANDRASENA

WE TOO HAVE A PRISONER
IN OUR CELLAR. HE WAS BROUGHT
IN THIS MORNING. AN TALKING
HIS FLOOD TO HIS EIGHT WIFE.

UNHATT'S CURIOSITY WAS
AROUSSED. SHE QUIETLY FOL-
LOWED HIM TO
THE CELLAR.

WHEN SHE SAW THE PRISONER

CHANDRASENA!
YOU! HERE?
BUT UNHATT...

SHE HAS RECOGNIS-
ED HIM AND DHVALAT
AND UNHATT HAVE
WENT OUT TO GET
MINKIA. TO BETTER
PUT HER IN THE
CELLAR TOO!



MEANWHILE, AT FORT AJINKYA, CHANIDA VARMA WENT TO SEE DHAVAL.

ALZA WANTS ME TO FREE YOU. YOU MAY GO. TWO OF MY GUARDS WILL ESCORT YOU.



WHEN DHAVAL AND THE TWO GUARDS WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE, CHANIDA VARMA DREW ONE OF THEM ASIDE.

FINISH HIM OFF WHEN YOU REACH THE WOODS!



AS THEY RODE OUT OF FORT AJINKYA, THEY ENCOUNTERED DURJAT, UNWATT AND A FEW MORE, RIDING TOWARDS THE CASTLE.

DURJAT AND UNWATT!
I MUST NOT LET THEM ESCAPE.



DHAVAL TOOK ON DURJAT AND SOON HAD HIM ON THE GROUND.

OUR LEADER HAS FALLEN.
CHARGE!



THEY RUSHED AT DHAVAL AND THE GUARDS. IN THE SCUFFLE THAT ENDED, BOTH THE GUARDS WERE KILLED.



I'LL RIDE ON
TO FORT AJINKYA
AND DO WHAT I'D
SET OUT TO DO—
MAKE THE BEAUTY
LALITA MINE

HE IS INJURED
LET HIM GO. I'LL
RIDE ON.



AFTER DHAVAL RODE SOME DISTANCE,
HE CAME UPON A CRYSTAL PILLAR.
NEAR IT STOOD THE GHOST,

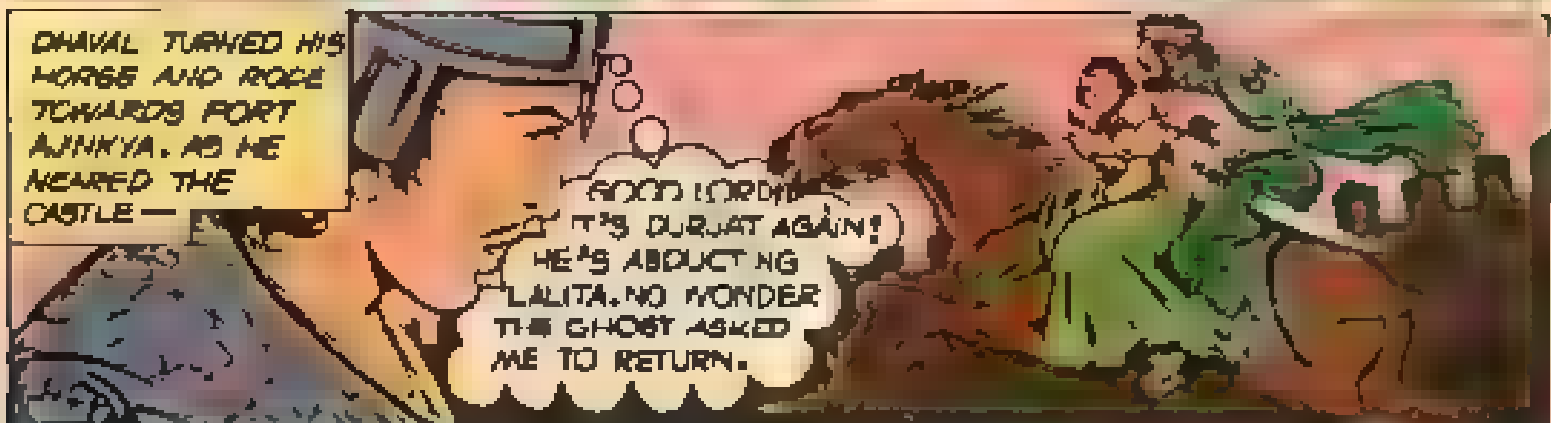
GO BACK TO
FORT AJINKYA.

I RESPECT
YOUR COMMAND,
SIR. I WILL!



DHAVAL TURNED HIS
HORSE AND RODE
TOWARDS FORT
AJINKYA. AS HE
NEARED THE
CASTLE—

GOOD LORD!
IT'S DURJAT AGAIN!
HE'S ABDUCTING
LALITA. NO WONDER
THE GHOST ASKED
ME TO RETURN.



HE SPRANG LIKE A LEOPARD AND TAKING DURJAT BY SURPRISE,
GRABBED LALITA FROM HIM.

YOU SCOUNDREL!
HOW DARE YOU
TOUCH HER!



STUNNED, DURJAT RODE OFF.

I'LL GET EVEN
WITH YOU SOME
DAY, YOU BRAT.



HEARING THE COMMOTION, DATMESHREK AND CHANDA KAPPA CAME OUT.

POOR GIRL!
SHE'S UN-
CONSCIOUS.

WHAT HAPPENED?
LALITA, SPEAK TO ME.
I AM YOUR
FATHER.

LATER, WHEN LALITA REGAINED HER CONSCIOUSNESS —

DHIVAL! FATHER! THE DACOIT
TRIED TO KIDNAP ME. THANK
GOD I'M SAFE.

YES, THANK
GOD YOU'RE SAFE, BUT
DHIVAL WILL NOW HAVE
TO FACE A TRIAL. HE
SHOULD NOT
HAVE RE-
TURNED.

HAS GUIDED
BY SUPER-
NATURAL POWERS.

DHIVAL THEN TOLD THEM ABOUT
THE GHOST AT THE CRYSTAL
PILAR. CHANDA KAPPA WAS JEAL-
OUS AND AFRAID.

FOR SOME
REASON MY BROTHER'S
GHOST IS
PARTIAL TO DHIVAL
AND LALITA. I
MUST PLAY
MY CARDS
FAST.

A FEW DAYS LATER —

MANARAS, HAVE
YOU ARRANGED FOR
THE SPECIAL COURT TO
TAKE UP THE CASE
AGAINST
DHIVAL?

I HAVE,
SIR.

AT THE HEARING—



THE DEFENDANT, VEER CHAVAL, IS CHARGED WITH THE MURDERS OF CHANDRASENA AND OF THE TWO GUARDS WHOM CHANDRA VARMA HAD SO KINDLY SENT TO ESCORT THE DEFENDANT.

HIS MOTIVE? HE WANTED TO MARRY LALITA FOR WEALTH, POWER AND STATUS. CHANDRASENA WAS AGAINST THE MATCH, SO CHAVAL MURDERED HIM. LATER, HE WAS AFRAID, REPENTED AND CONFESSED TO CHANDRA VARMA, BEGGING FOR HIS MERCY.



CHANDRA VARMA AND RAVARIS WITHOUT THE LEAST CONJUNCTION, GAVE FALSE EVIDENCE.



WHAT THE COURT ATTENDANT SAYS IS TRUE.

I SAW AND HEARD THE ACCUSED CONFESS HIS GUILT TO MY MASTER.



VEER CHAVAL, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY IN YOUR DEFENCE?

I DO.



THAT DAY, WHEN CHANDRASENA SAW ME WITH HIS SISTER IN THE WOODS, HE WAS VERY ANGRY. HE ORDERED HER TO GO HOME, AND THEN STOOD GLARING AT ME.



"AFTER SHE HAD LEFT, A WILD BOAR SUDDENLY CAME CHARGING OUT OF THE WOODS AND WAS ABOUT TO ATTACK HIM."

"I THROST MY SWORD INTO ITS NECK THE BEAR DIED BUT MY SWORD BROKE INTO TWO. CHANORASENA ESCAPED ALIVE."

CHANORASENA!



"WHEN I RETURNED TO PORT ALMATA, I WAS SUSPECTED OF CHANORASENA'S MURDER AND ARRESTED."



AS FOR THE TWO GUARDS WHO CAME TO ESCORT ME - THEY WERE KILLED BY THE GALT, OLIVAT AND HIS HENCHMEN. I AM INNOCENT. THAT'S ALL.



BUT THE JURY WAS NOT CONVINCED. THE JUDGE GAVE THE VERDICT.

THE EVIDENCE IS AGAINST YOU. YOU WILL BE HANGED THREE DAYS HENCE.



MEANWHILE, AT "LION'S DEN" DURJAT WAS VERY HAPPY WHEN HE HEARD THE VERDICT.

MY WORST RIVAL IS OUT OF THE WAY. LALITA WILL SOON BE MINE. TONIGHT WE WILL HAVE RANARAG BROUGHT HERE. LET HIM SEE OUR PRISONERS. THEN WE WILL DICTATE TERMS.

ACCORDINGLY, THAT NIGHT THE PRISONERS WERE SHOWN TO RANARAG.

HOURS LATER AT FORT AJINKYA, VINAY SAW RANARAG COMING TOWARDS CHANDRA VARMA'S ROOM.

HE LOOKS DISTURBED. I WILL HIDE MYSELF AND SEE WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.

RANARAG STOOD BEFORE CHANDRA VARMA.

I COME FROM DURJAT, UNLESS YOU ARRANGE HIS MARRIAGE WITH LALITA, HE AND HIS TWO BROTHERS WILL PRODUCE SUCH EVIDENCE IN COURT AS WILL PROVE YOU GUILTY OF GIVING FALSE EVIDENCE.

AND IF I DO WHAT HE ASKS?

THE PRISONER IN THE "LION'S DEN" WILL BE SILENCED FOR EVER.

ALL RIGHT! AGREE. COME. I WILL GIVE MY REPLY IN WRITING.

WHAT! THE SCOUNDREL IS WILLING TO SELL LALITA TO THE DACOITS!

VALMIL WAS INTERESTED.

WHO IS THE PRISONER?
WHY SHOULD HE BE
SILENCED FOR EVER?
MUST FIND OUT AT
ALL COSTS I'LL TAKE THE
COURT-BARD'S
HELP.



THE BARD AND VALMIL, POSING AS SINGER AND MUSICIAN,
GAINED ACCESS TO THE "LION'S DEN" WHERE THE DAILITH
WERE CELEBRATING DURLIT'S VICTORY.



LATER —

THEY'RE QUICK! TO THE CELLAR.
ALL DEAD DHAVAL WILL DIE TOMORROW
DRUNK! IF WE ARE NOT IN TIME.

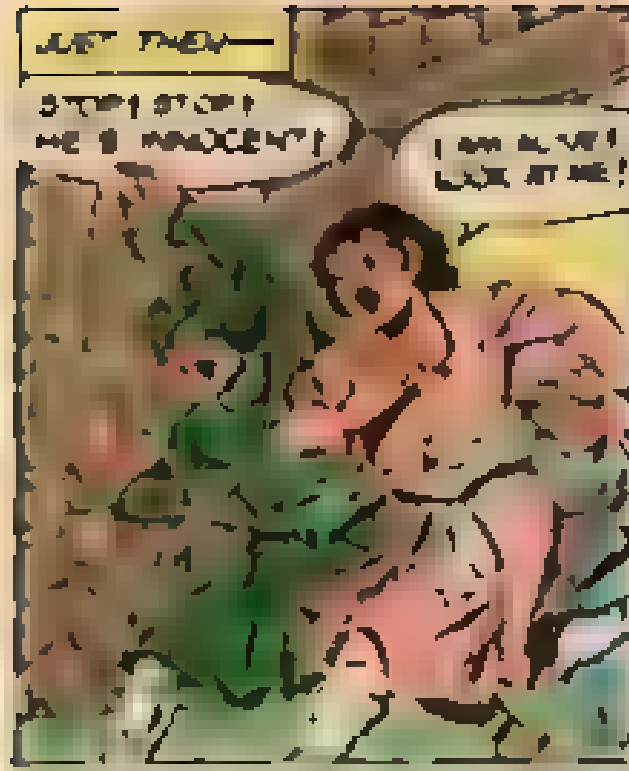


FAR Y NEXT MORNING, AT FORT AJINKYA, AS THE MOOSE WAS ABOUT TO FALL ROUND
DHAVAL'S NECK, A DAZZLING LIGHT SET UP THE BUILT ALUMINATED BY HIS WIFE. THE
GHOST APPEARED AND POINTING TO THE BALLOON SHOOK HIS HEAD.



HE IS INNOCENT!
THE HAS EX OF
THE CASTLE HAS
DECLARED IT.

ENOUGH OF
THAT NONSENSE!
PROCEED WITH
THE ELEC-
TION!



LET THEM—

STOP! STOP!
HE IS INNOCENT!

I AM ALIVE!
LOOK AT ME!



WELL, CHANDRASEKHAR, THE SARDAR HAD NOT
GIVEN HIM ANY CHANCE.

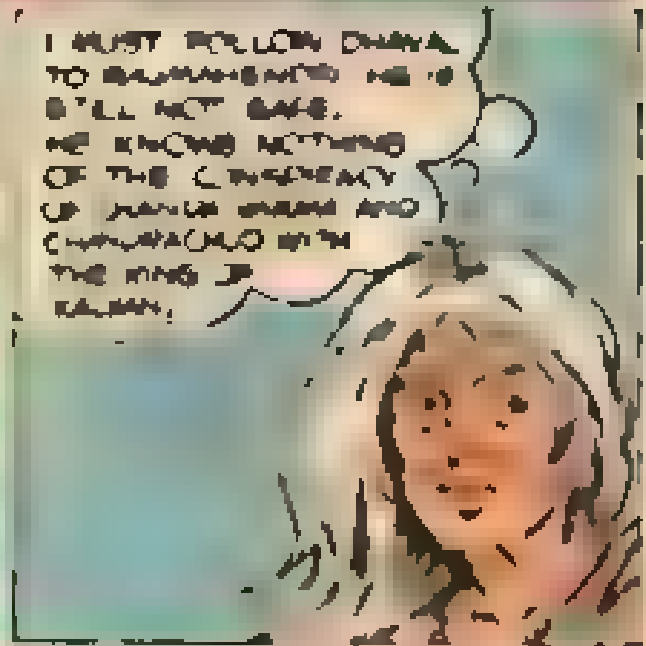
DEAR, DEAR
DHANU! THANK
A LOT! HE HAS
LIVED IN TIME.



AH! MY SON! YOU ARE ALIVE.
THEN DHANU IS INNOCENT.
THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
LET US RUN TO MY FRIEND,
THE MASTER OF DOGS
AND...

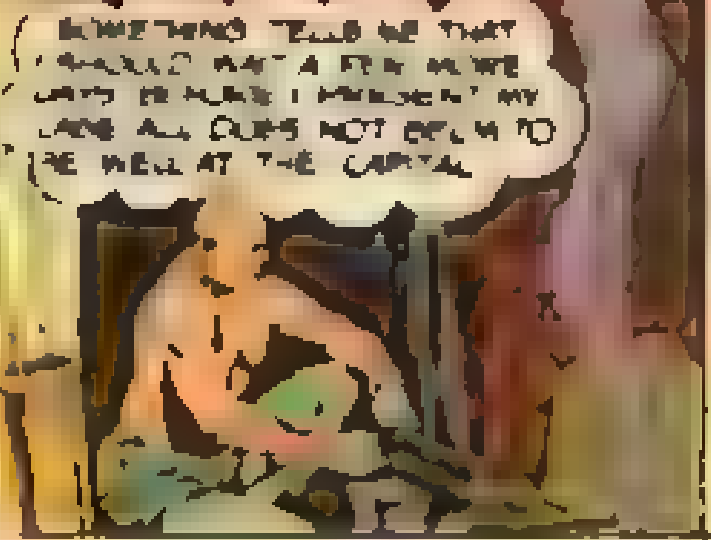
I SHALL GO TO
BAMUNGHATA AND
SEE DHANU VARMA
FOR HIS FALSE
EVIDENCE.

THE SITUATION
HAD GOT TO BE
LEFT TO THE
MATTERS.



I MUST FOLLOW DHANU
TO BAMUNGHATA. HE IS
STILL NOT SAFE.
HE KNOWS NOTHING
OF THE CONSPIRACY
OF JAGUJIB WARRIOR AND
CHANDRASEKHAR WITH
THE KING OF
KALASH.

1. A SARDAR HAD NOT GIVEN HIM ANY CHANCE TO EXPLAIN HIS SIDE OF THE STORY. IN THE
END, HE HAD TO GO TO THE SARDAR.



SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT
I HAD A LOT OF TIME TO
LIVE. HE SAID I HAD TO
LIVE ALL OURS NOT ONLY TO
BE WELL AT THE CAPITAL.

THAT STEALING —

DMARAL, I'M
ORDER TO REST
PRASAD TO DELIVER
THESE ARMS TO
CHANDRAKANT

I'M FREE. I'LL GO WITH
YOU, BAHMAN, AND
HELP YOU LIBERATE
THEM.



AND, THEY PLANNED TO STAY AT
THE CASTLE AND LAUNCH AN
ATTACK ON THE CASTLE AND LAUNCH AN
ATTACK ON THE CASTLE AND LAUNCH AN

TAKE THE ARMS
AND TO MEET
OUR MEN WAIT
THERE.



DMARAL RIDE WITH THE ARMS AND LAUNCH AN ATTACK ON THE CASTLE AND LAUNCH AN

WHAT'S IN THIS
BUNDLE? IT
SEEMS TO BE
ALIVE!

IT'S THE PRINCE.
THE QUEEN HAS
GIVEN BIRTH TO
A SON.



CHANDRA-
KANT WAS
HOLDING
THE PRINCE
IN HIS ARMS.
HE WAS
CRYING
AND LAUGHING
AT THE SAME
TIME.

DMARAL WAS STAMMERING WHEN CHANDRAKANT, A LOYAL CHIEFTAIN, ASKED,

YOU HAVE COMMIT-
TED A BLUNDER. THE
PEOPLE WILL REBEL
IF THEY KNOW THAT
THE PRINCE HAS BEEN
STOLEN. THERE WILL BE
CHAOS IN THE KING-
DOM, AND THE
ENEMY IS ALREADY
TAKING AD-
VANTAGE OF THE
SITUATION.

YOU ARE RIGHT, IT
WAS CHANDRAKANT'S
DEED. HE SAID IT WAS
FOR THE GOOD OF
THE PEOPLE WHO WERE
SUFFERING FROM
THE ENEMY'S HANDS.



WE MUST RESTORE
THE PRINCE TO
THE QUEEN

I'M
WILLING,
BUT HOW
SHALL WE
DO IT?

BRING THE PRINCE
OUT AT NIGHT, I'LL
WAIT FOR YOU. HE'LL
TAKE HIM BACK TO
THE PALACE.

SO THAT'E
T'ID BETTER
WARN
CHANDRACHUD

THE BOY IMMEDIATELY DISCLOSED WHAT HE HAD
HEARD TO CHANDRACHUD.

THIS WILL UPSET
THE KING OF
KALVAN'S PLANS
TO ANNEX THE
KINGDOM AND HE
WILL NEVER FOR-
GIVE ME FOR IT.

HARRISON
SUMTRAPIN,
BRING THE
PRINCE TO
ME AND...

...DECLARE
DHARAL A
TRAI. OK!

UNWARE OF WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE, VEER DHARAL RODE TO THE GATES OF FORT PRADAG,
AS SOON AS NIGHT FELL.

IS THAT YOU, SUM TRAPIN?
YOU HAVE KEPT YOUR WORD
AND BROUGHT THE
PRINCE!

PLEASE
LISTEN,
THE CHILD

WE'LL TALK LATER.
WE MUST GET OUT
OF HERE FAST.

AT A SAFE DISTANCE, DHAVAL UNCOVERED THE
BUNDLE TO GIVE THE INFANT A BREATH OF AIR. HE
WAS SHOCKED TO FIND IT COLD AND STIFF.

I WAS
TRYING TO
TELL YOU ALL THE
WHILE... THE
CHILD IS DEAD.

THE
PRINCE,
DEAD?

NOT THE PRINCE,
MY SON. PLEASE GIVE
MY DEAD CHILD BACK TO ME
I AM NOT SUMITRASEN.
HE HAD BEEN
IMPRISONED BY
CHANDRACHUD.

NO!

DHAVAL SAILED, LEAVING HIM THERE. THE
OTHER ROYAL MEN

WHEN DHAVAL RECOVERED —

WHA? HOW?
YOU? HOW
DO YOU
GET HERE?

I'VE BEEN
FOLLOWING
YOU.

THEN PLEASE GO TO
FORT PRASAD AND
GET NEWS ABOUT
SUMTRASSEN AND
THE PRINCE.

I WONDER
WHY SHE
IS SO GOOD
TO ME?



MAACHARI RETURNED AT MIDNIGHT.

CHANDRACHUD HAS
THE PRINCE. HE HAS
DECLARED YOU A TRA-
ITOR SUMTRASSEN IS TO
BE EXECUTED EARLY
TOMORROW
MORNING.

WE MUST
SAVE HIM.



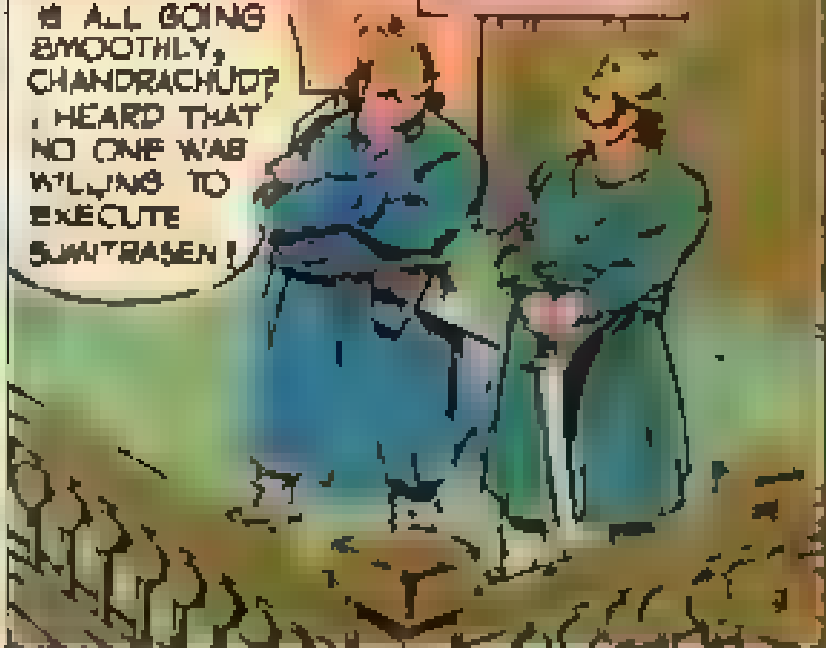
TOGETHER THEY WORKED OUT A PLAN.

... SO BEFORE
SUNSET, WE MEET
BY THE GATES OF
FORT PRASAD. YOU
WILL BE READY
WITH THE
HORSES.



THE NEXT MORNING CHANDA VARMA MET
CHANDRACHUD.

IS ALL GOING
SMOOTHLY,
CHANDRACHUD?
I HEARD THAT
NO ONE WAS
WILLING TO
EXECUTE
SUMTRASSEN!



WHAT YOU HEARD IS TRUE, CHANDA
VARMA. HE IS VERY POPULAR BUT
WE FOUND AN OUTSIDER
WHO HAD AN OLD SCORE
TO SETTLE
WITH HIM.

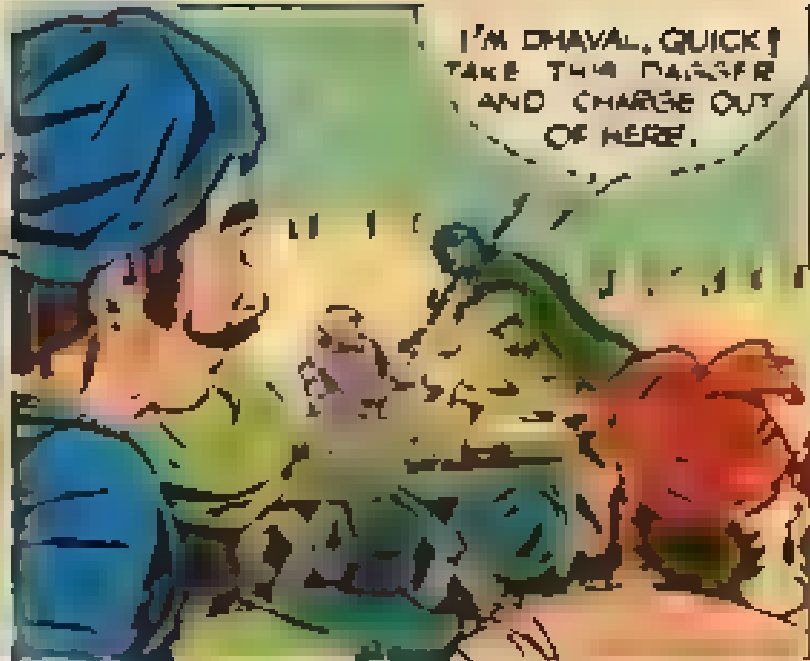


AS THE EXECUTIONER RAISED HIS AXE—

WHO ARE YOU?
LET ME KNOW
YOUR NAME
AND YOU OR
I DO NOT
REMEMBER
KINDING ANYONE



I'M DHAVAL. QUICK!
TAKE THIS DAGGER
AND CHARGE OUT
OF HERE.



IN AN INSTANT, SURROUNDING THE 4 MEN, THE TAIL OF THEIR RUMBLE! THROUGH THE
STUNNED CROWD.

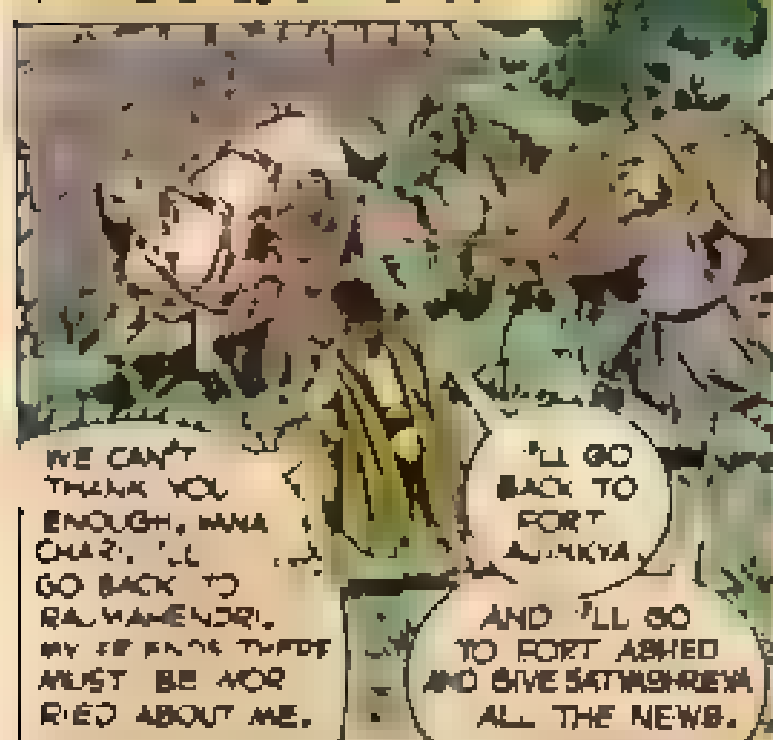
HE'S
MADE HIS
ESCAPE!

WHO COULD
HE SAVE
OUR BE?

CAN'T
SAY I'M
NOT GLAD.
HE'S A GOOD
MAN AND WE
HAVE TOO FEW
OF THEM.



AT THE GATES OF THE FORT—



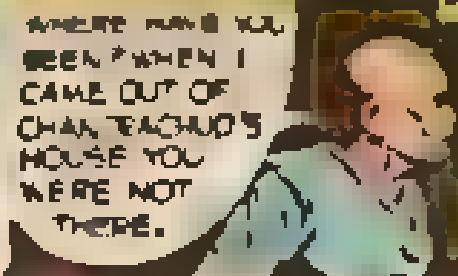
WE CAN'T
THANK YOU
ENOUGH, MHA
CHAI. I'LL
GO BACK TO
RAVAMENDRI.
MY 18 BROTHERS
MUST BE WOR-
RIED ABOUT ME.

I'LL GO
BACK TO
FORT
AJINKYA.

AND I'LL GO
TO FORT ASHED
AND GIVE SATYASHREYA
ALL THE NEWS.

WHEN DHAVAL REACHED BALHA'S HOUSE AT
RAVAMENDRI—

WHERE HAD HE
BEEN WHEN I
CAME OUT OF
CHATEACHUD'S
HOUSE YOU
WERE NOT
THERE.



DHAVAL!
... DHAVAL!

A-A-A-A

SAD
I'LL GET EVEN
WITH YOU
ONE DAY.

DHARMA, OF COURSE, DO NOT DO. AFTER A
MOMENT OF CAREFUL THINKING HE WAS ABLE
TO REACH A VERDICT. —

SALMAN, WHAT
ARE THE LATEST
REPORTS?

I SAW CHANDRA
VARMA WITH
CHANDRAKANT.
THEY ARE IN
LEAGUE WITH
THE KING OF
KALIAN.



I'LL WRITE
A LETTER TO BATHA-
SHEER. HE CAN
TAKE IT TO HIM.

WILL HE!

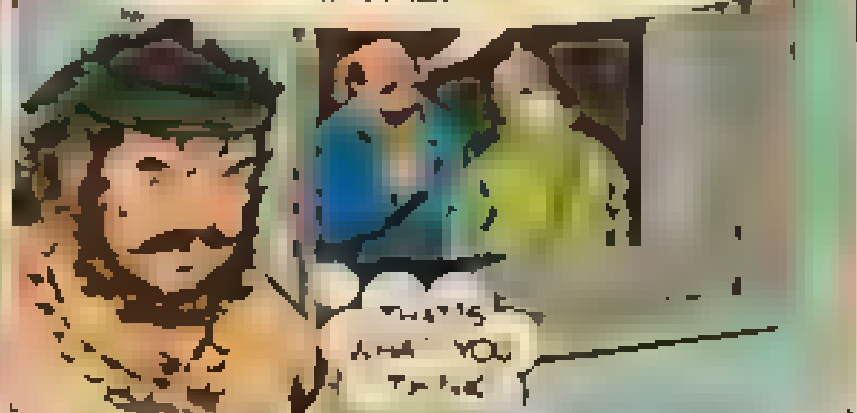
AS VIKAL WAS CARRYING THE LETTER
TO BATHASHEER —



ON THE WAY HE MET THE LETTER AND GAVE HIM.

MEANWHILE, IN THE ENEMY CAMP —

RAVARAJ WAS HEARING EVIDENCE TO PROVE
THAT BATHASHEER AND HIS SON ARE TREASONERS.
THEN ALL OUR ENEMIES WILL BE ELIMINATED. ONLY
THEY ARE OUT OF THE WAY. "FINISH ON DUELA"
AND JAMUNTI WILL BE IN OUR HANDS. ONLY MINE.



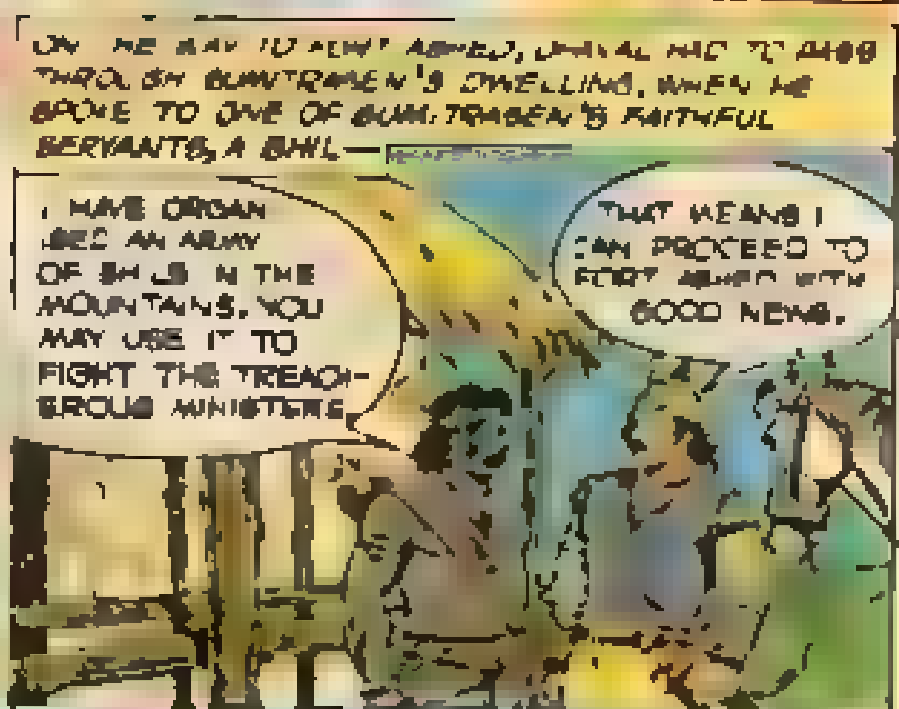
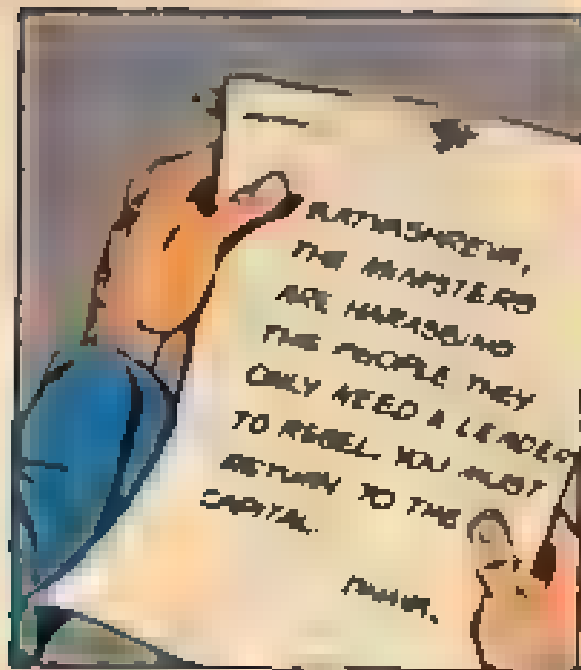
THIS IS
AND YOU
THINK

ALL ABOUT ENEMIES

READ THIS!

ALL THE
ENEMIES WILL
CHANDRA AND THE
OTHERS ARE OUT
OF THE WAY. "FINISH
ON CHANDRA
VARMA."





LATER, AS THE MONK AND DHAVAL SAT TALKING—

I WONDER WHY
VANACHAR IS SO
FOND OF ME!

I WILL TELL YOU WHY,
YOU ARE KEERT
VARMA'S SON AND THE
REAL MASTER OF FORT
AJINKYA. SHE WAS YOUR
NURSE VANITA. SHE
SAVED YOUR LIFE.
I WAS THERE WHEN
IT HAPPENED.

AND THE MONK TOLD HIM ALL ABOUT THE
COLD-BLOODED MURDER.

THAT EXPLAINS
EVERYTHING! MY
FATHER'S GHOST...
VANACHAR'S CON-
CERN... I WILL NOT
REST TILL I HAVE EX-
POSED THE FOUL
CRIME AND BROUGHT
PEACE TO MY
FATHER'S SOUL.

THE NEXT DAY, SATYAN AND VJAL ARRIVED AT FORT
ABHED.

MEANWHILE, CHANDA VARMA, AFTER
CONSULTING CHANDRACHUD, WAS ALSO
PLANNING TO LEAVE WITH HIS ARMY
FOR FORT LALIT.

I MUST FINISH
SATYASHREYA AND HIS
SON BEFORE DHAVAL CAN
WARN THEM. I WILL
TACKLE HIM AND THE
OTHERS LATER.

CHANDRACHUD
MUST BE DEFEATED.
THE PRINCE SHALL BE
FREED, AND DECLARED
KING OF THE LAND. YOU
GO AHEAD AND WARN
SATYASHREYA. I'LL
FOLLOW LATER WITH
THE BHIL ARMY.

CHANDRA VARMA, CHIEF OF THE 5000 ARMY BEFORE CHANDRA VARMA AND HIS MEN, HE TOLD SATYASHREYA ALL THAT THE MONK HAD TOLD HIM.

SO THAT IS WHY HIS GHOST VISITS THE CASTLE. LET US KEEP THE SECRET FOR A FEW MORE DAYS, MY SON.

CHANDRA VARMA'S ARMY BOON ARRIVED AT FORT LALT. A TERRIBLE BATTLE WAS FOUGHT.

MY SWORD... I'M DONE FOR! I'D BETTER FLEE FOR MY LIFE.

VICTORY IS OURS!

CHANDRA VARMA HAS RUN AWAY! THE COWARD!

MY BRAVE MEN, WE WILL CELEBRATE LATER. WE HAVE YET TO RESCUE THE PRINCE FROM FORT PRASAD.

SATYASHREYA'S ARMY WAS JUBILANT.

BUT WHEN DHIAL, CHANDRABELA AND THEIR MEN REACHED FORT PRASAD, CHANDRACHUD, ALONG WITH THE PRINCE AND A SMALL ARMY WAS ALREADY ON HIS WAY TO KALYAN.

ALAS! OUR
BRO HAS
GONE

DO NOT LOSE HOPE.
KNOW A SHORT CUT IS
DANGEROUS BUT IT WILL
TAKE US TO THE BORDER
BEFORE
OUR ENEMY.

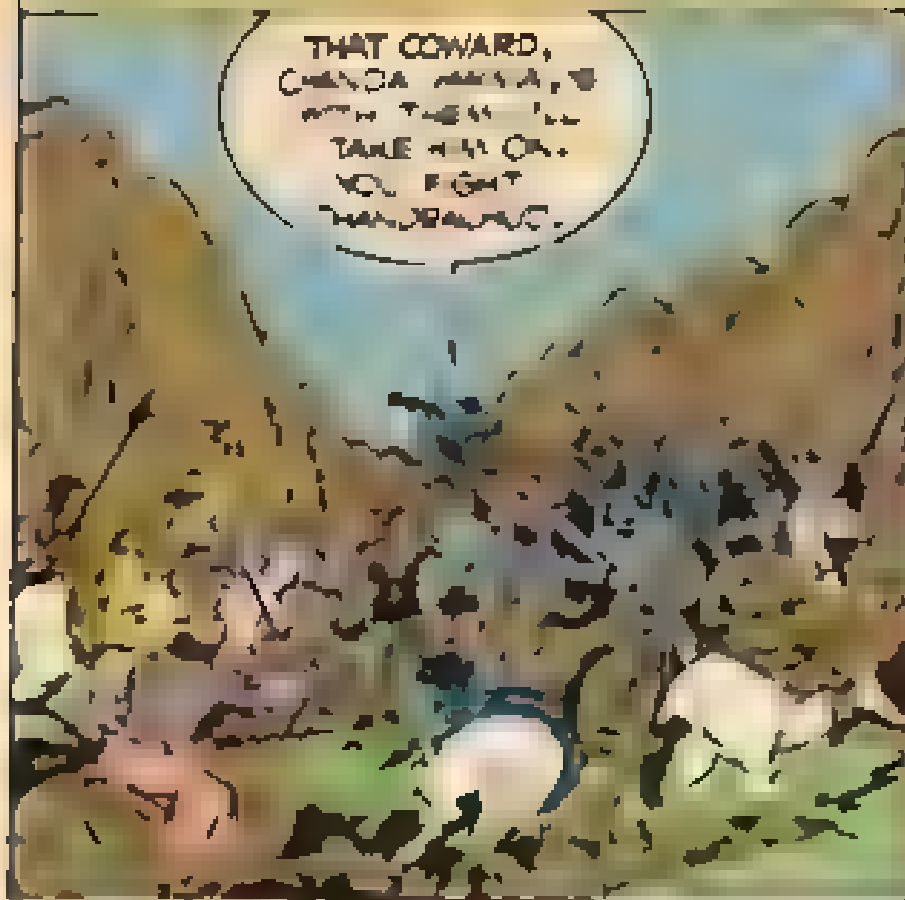


AND THERE
THEY ARE!
[WE'VE MADE IT
IN TIME.



WHEN CHANDRABENA AND HER MEN OPEN FIRE,
DHARA, CHANDRABENA AND THE OTHERS CHARGED.

THAT COWARD,
CHANDRABENA,
WITH THEM ALL
TAKE HIM ON.
YOU FIGHT
CHANDRABENA.



IF ANY CHANDRABENA'S MEN WERE HERE.

WHILE THEY'RE
BUSY WITH THE PRINCE,
I'D BETTER ESCAPE.



BATHASHREYA, CHANDRABENA,
DHAYAL, SUMITRABEN, SAHJAN,
VILAS AND THE BAND WENT TO
THE PALACE TO HAND OVER
THE PRINCE TO THE QUEEN.

OH MY BROTHER MY
DEAR SON! YOU
ARE SAFE! AM
INDEBTED TO YOU,
BATHASHREYA.

IT IS YOUR DHAVAL
WHO DESERVES ALL
THE CREDIT.



MEANWHILE, CHANDA VARMA WHO HAD BACK AT FORT AJINKYA, HAD NOT GIVEN UP HOPE. HE WENT TO DURJAT AND UNMATT.

DHAVAL
MUST DIE!

HE MUST, MUSTN'T HE?
SO YOU CAN FINISH US
OFF TOO AND MARRY
LALITA. SEIZE HIM,
UNMATT! WE SHALL
HANG HIM AT THE
GALLONS MEANT
FOR DHAVAL.

CHANDA VARMA WENT TO THE
GALLONS, A REPENTANT SOUL.

FORGIVE ME,
DHAVAL.

AS DURJAT AND UNMATT RODE AWAY, THEY WERE
FOLLOWED BY THE GHOST AND DRIVEN TO THEIR
DEATH.

E-E-EAH!
DURJ-A-A-AT!

HELP!

AFTER LEAVING THE QUEEN, DHAVAL AND THE OTHERS WENT TO THE CRYSTAL PILLAR
AND PAID HOMAGE TO THE OLD MASTER OF THE CASTLE.

FATHER, YOUR SON
HAS BEEN INSTALLED AS
THE RIGHTFUL MASTER
OF FORT AJINKYA.

AND MY DAUGHTER
SHALL BE HIS BRIDE.
YOU MAY REST
IN PEACE.



AMAR CHITRA KATHA

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children with their
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